



YUM! Katrina Alton, 8, is impressed by the candy table at St. Joseph's church bazaar Saturday afternoon. (Lori Frechette photo)

Acton drinking water 'safe'

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Provincial auditor Erik Peters' comments last Tuesday that one million Ontarians get their drinking water from treatment plants that do not meet safety requirements, should not concern Halton Hills residents in the slightest, says a Halton Region official.

"Our facilities are not part of that report," Vince Suffoletta, director of plant operations at the Region, said on Monday. "The only concern in Halton Hills is that there are no concerns. The water in Halton Hills is of good quality and quantity."

In his 1994 report on the provincial government's programs and spending, Peters reported that 120 of 490 water treatment plants — mainly smaller plants serving 10 per cent of Ontario's population — had "significant compliance problems" in 1992 related to: Not performing sufficient testing for bacteria and toxic chemicals; Not conforming with minimum guidelines for treating bacteria; and not meeting environment ministry guidelines on treated water quality.

Suffoletta said one-day water consumption in Acton is 600,000 gallons a day. He added some parameters are tested on a daily basis, while some are based on population. All of which is required by the Ministry of Energy and Environment.

He downplayed a reference in Peters' report concerning the status of Milton's drinking water, saying the water in all Halton communities — with the exception of Milton — is chlorinated for disinfecting purposes.

Suffoletta went on to say he doesn't recall ever having a health-

related risk of any water supplies in Halton Hills. But, he continued, if one existed, an order would be announced by the medical officer of health for residents to boil their water before they drink it, for safety reasons.

"We (Halton) are more than within the provincial guidelines for water quality," Suffoletta commented. "We are extremely wary of any situation and react instantaneously if there's any potential of it being harmful."

When contacted on Monday, mayor-elect Marilyn Serjeantson said she wasn't alarmed by Peters' remarks, since she's well aware of

the area's water quality.

"Halton Hills has always had the highest quality of water. I don't know of it to be any different. It's hard water, but that's because we have hard water in our wells," explained Serjeantson. "But our choice has been to have well water, not water from Lake Ontario."

Serjeantson praised the work of the local public works department.

"When you have a good staff in place you have the product that goes along with it."

Suffoletta has asked to get a copy of the report, but reiterated that Acton residents have no cause for concern over drinking water.

Biggest-ever parade warmed by the sun

Acton's Santa Claus Parade was blessed with sunshine Saturday, a welcome improvement over last year, when harsh weather left everyone cold and wet.

"Don't forget — I promised everyone we'd have great weather this year," joked parade organizer Bill Spielvogel following the hour-long march from McKenzie-Smith school to the Public Library.

Spielvogel deemed the parade "a great success. It was the biggest Santa Claus Parade so far, and the crowd was strong."

Despite the event's popularity, revenue did take a dip this year and Spielvogel estimates the operating loss to be close to \$1,500. Expenses were \$4,000.

"But we still may get some private donations come in over the next few days," explained the Bower Avenue resident. If readers are interested in making a donation Spielvogel can be reached at 853-2924.

Churchill Road's Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle was awarded top prize of "Best Float in the

Parade" for their presentation of an old-fashioned Christmas.

Rozlyn Ricketts, Christian education director at the church, said that "when we saw the theme of 'Cherished Memories of Christmas Past,' the idea of Christmas carolling came to me, because it's a thing we used to do as kids, and it seems to be a thing of the past."

"Also on the float was a home scene of a grandfather reading The Christmas Story to young children. That also seems to have become a thing of the past, but we do wish it was a more common occurrence today."

Limehouse Cubs and Beavers took the award for Best Service Club entry, McKenzie-Smith was judged "Best School," Acton Baptist Puppeteers was awarded first place in the "Open" category and K.T. Taxi had the winning "Commercial" entry.

Sponsored by Acton's volunteer fire fighters, the parade was led once again by the Citizens' Band. Other participants included mayor-elect Marilyn Serjeantson.



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